craft maintenance facility in India, in collaboration with M/s Dynair Co. of USA. In addition, M/s Modi Rubber Ltd. has informed DGCA that they have signed a M.O.U. with M/s MTU GMBH of Germany to set up an Aero Engine Maintenance unit at Gwalior.

Opposition to privatisation of Airlines

4174. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air Corporation Employees Union (A.C.E.U.) and Indian Aircraft Technicians Associationare opposing the "privatisation" of air services in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These unions have been protesting against the proposal of the Government for the repeal of the Air Corporations Act, 1953, restructuring of Air India/Indian Airlines and operation of air taxi services. These unions have taken part in strikes on various occasions to project their point of view.

(c) There is no proposal to "privatise" Air India and Indian Airlines and what is intended is only the restructuring of the airlines by forming two companies under the Companies Act, which will still be having majority shareholding of the Government.

Airlinking of some parts of Uttar Pradesh

4175. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some parts of Uttar Pradesh have not beetn connected through air so far;

(b) if so, what are the names of these areas, district-wise and steps proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to strengthen the air-services in Uttar Pradesh by providing additional flights to areas of heavy demand; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) (a) to (d) Air services are presently available to Agra, Lucknow, Varanasi and Dehradun in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Due to capacity constraints and other operational and commercial reasons there is no proposal at present to augment the services.

Setting up of an Airport at Meerut in Uttar Pradesh

4176. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Meerut is the only major Corporation city in Uttar Pradesh which is not linked by air; and

(b) whether Government had conducted any survey to build an airport at Meerut?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Decline in Tourist Traffic to metro cities

4177. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: SHRI JAGMOHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta are among the most polluted cities in the world, as a result of which international tourism bodies have advised the tourist to avoid these cities;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction, thereto; and